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# REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (UNAVEM III)

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of Security Council resolution 1045 (1996) of 8 February 1996, in which the Council, inter alia, requested me to report by 4 April 1996 on the progress made by the Government of Angola and the União Nacional para a Indepêndencia Total de Angola (UNITA) towards meeting the goals and timetable agreed between them, and to keep the Council informed of developments on the ground. The report covers the main developments since my previous report, dated 6 March 1996 (S/1996/171).

## II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. Following the meeting between President José Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA leader Mr. Jonas Savimbi on 1 March 1996 at Libreville, Gabon, the political atmosphere in the country has improved. Progress has also been achieved in the implementation of the revised timetable approved by the two parties, particularly with respect to the military aspects of the peace process.

3. The dialogue between the Government and UNITA has continued within and outside the framework of the Joint Commission. High-level government delegations travelled to Bailundo and other UNITA-controlled areas for talks with Mr. Savimbi and his senior aides. Meetings took place at Luanda between government and UNITA delegations to the Joint Commission on an almost daily basis, and the Armed Conflict Prevention Group has continued to operate regularly. On several occasions, consultations concerning regional military and humanitarian issues have also been held among the two parties and the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) in the province of Uíge.

4. However, several elements of a statement made by Mr. Savimbi on 13 March 1996 during a ceremony commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of UNITA have raised serious concerns about his commitment to the important decisions reached between the two parties at Libreville. On 18 March, my Special Representative, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, accompanied by the representatives of the three observer States (Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United

States of America), visited Bailundo to review with Mr. Savimbi the status of the peace process and to clarify UNITA's positions on a number of vital issues. These discussions allowed my Special Representative to state publicly after the meeting that UNITA had reconfirmed the commitments it had made in Gabon. However, in a press interview on 27 March, the UNITA leader again cast doubt on some of his party's pledges. Such statements can be very detrimental to the peace process and my Special Representative is therefore seeking additional clarifications from Mr. Savimbi.

5. On 21 March 1996, my Special Representative held a productive meeting at Luanda with President dos Santos. During the period under review, a number of foreign dignitaries travelled to Angola and sought to impress upon the two parties the need to expedite the implementation of the different provisions of the Lusaka Protocol (see S/1994/1441, annex).

6. Since my previous report, further progress has been recorded regarding the release of prisoners. The Government has freed all of the 354 detainees registered with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and by 1 April UNITA had released 157.

7. Although the Government has on several occasions offered additional time on the Angolan national radio and television for United Nations information programmes, it has not yet granted UNAVEM III the requisite facilities for the establishment of an independent United Nations radio. My Special Representative continues to raise this important question at the highest levels of the Government.

## III. MILITARY ASPECTS

### A. Observance of the cease-fire and status of UNAVEM III

8. During the month of March 1996, the military situation remained stable, with occasional incidents in diamond-producing and cattle-raising areas, as well as in Malange province. The Government/UNITA conflict prevention mechanism operating under United Nations auspices has been instrumental in preventing serious cease-fire violations. The Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) have finally agreed to withdraw from the areas around Andrada, Lucapa and Cafunfo which they had taken over in December 1995 and February 1996. This positive development made it possible for both parties to disengage their troops in this volatile region and to begin clearing the Malange-Saurimo road of mines (see para. 16 below). UNAVEM III has continued to encourage meetings between government and UNITA military officials in various parts of the country.

9. In another positive development, the Government handed over to UNAVEM III on 21 March 1996 a plan for the first phase of the withdrawal of FAA, including its heavy weapons, to the nearest barracks in Bengo, Huambo, Kuando Kubango and Uíge provinces. This process, which began on 25 March, is being closely monitored by UNAVEM III. I hope that it will serve to bolster confidence between the two parties and will be followed by further actions aimed at the overall enhancement of the peace process.

10. As planned, the remainder of the military component of UNAVEM III - the Ukrainian bridging company, two additional platoons of the Portuguese logistic unit and the Zambian mechanized company - was deployed to Angola in March 1996. With their arrival, the total strength of the military and police personnel of the Mission stood at 7,071 as of 29 March, making UNAVEM III the largest current United Nations peace-keeping operation. In addition to establishing six regional headquarters, the Mission has fielded 57 observer teams, 34 of which include civilian police observers.

## B. Completion of the formation of the Angolan Armed Forces

11. After intensive negotiations, delegations of the two parties agreed on 9 March 1996 which posts in FAA would be allocated to UNITA, thus moving towards the implementation of an essential element of the Lusaka Protocol. Accordingly, UNITA will provide the joint army with 18 generals and will fill several important positions, including that of Vice-Minister of Defence, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Commander of one of the military regions and Commander of the planned "fourth branch" of FAA. While talks on the modalities for the incorporation are continuing, the Government has signalled its readiness for this process to begin without further delay. Since the selection of troops cannot start before the UNITA generals are integrated into FAA, it is important for UNITA to take immediate steps in this regard. At the same time, it is important that the Government accelerate all practical preparations for the unification of the two forces. I appeal to bilateral donors to assist in this challenging task.

## C. Quartering process

12. I regret to have to report that little progress in the quartering of UNITA troops was achieved between the last week of February and the end of March 1996, although the process resumed on 25 March. As of 29 March, 18,595 UNITA soldiers had registered in the first five quartering areas and had handed over a total of 15,169 weapons, an alarmingly small increase over the 16,699 soldiers and 13,728 weapons which I reported a month ago. Moreover, 1,163 of the soldiers had subsequently deserted the areas. Some 10,000 family members of UNITA troops are also encamped in the vicinity of the quartering areas.

13. My Special Representative and the members of the Joint Commission visited both the operational quartering areas and those under preparation, in order to assess living conditions there. Overall discipline in the camps remains good and, despite complaints, the Joint Commission found conditions there to be generally acceptable. During March, the assembly sites at N'Gove, N'Tuco and Quibala were thoroughly evaluated and declared open for quartering. Efforts to increase the level of assistance being provided to the quartering areas will continue and I would like to pay tribute to donors for their contribution to this crucial exercise.

14. The age of some UNITA troops and the quality of surrendered weapons continue to be a major concern, as described in paragraph 12 of my previous report to the Council (S/1996/171). Moreover, UNITA armed elements are still

present in some areas that were expected to be vacated upon quartering of UNITA troops. UNAVEM III is vigorously pursuing these and related issues; the quartering process must be credible and fully verifiable, which it is not at present. The UNITA leadership has assured my Special Representative that their performance during the second phase of cantonment would improve.

15. The United Nations, its agencies and the non-governmental organizations operating in Angola will continue to do everything possible to provide quartering areas with adequate supplies and services, including food, health facilities and civic education for the demobilized soldiers. Special attention will also be given to the conditions in the camps where family members of UNITA soldiers have gathered. In the meantime, international humanitarian organizations are finalizing preparations for the deployment to the quartering areas of several mobile medical teams to complement the efforts of the health workers already in place. Almost all soldiers in the initial four quartering areas have already received medical check-ups, and special nutrition/health programmes are being initiated for those suffering from trypanosomiasis, tuberculosis and acute malnutrition. Basic medical assistance is also being provided to the dependants in the satellite camps and to neighbouring civilian communities. Despite this impressive effort, quartering remains a daunting task that will require additional support from all those involved.

### D. Road rehabilitation and demining

16. UNAVEM III, United Nations agencies and specialized international non-governmental organizations continued demining operations in eight provinces of Angola. The scourge of mines in the country requires particular attention from both the international community and the Angolan leaders. Mine survey and clearance is expected to accelerate along the main access road from Malange to the eastern border of the country since UNITA has finally lifted its objections to the opening of this vital route. With the delivery of additional metallic bridges donated by the United States and the deployment of the Ukrainian bridging company, relevant activities will also intensify. As of 29 March, the South African demining firm, MECHEM, supported by quality control specialists seconded by Germany, had verified and cleared a total of 1,543 kilometres of road.

17. The first and second demining courses for former FAA and UNITA soldiers conducted at the Central Mine Action Training School run by the United Nations has so far graduated 129 deminers. However, the deployment of these graduates has been postponed, owing to delays in the arrival of equipment. It is planned that the school will train up to 500 Angolan deminers by the end of 1996.

## IV. POLICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS

18. The civilian police (CIVPOL) component of UNAVEM III performed various tasks as indicated in my previous report to the Security Council (S/1996/171). In pursuance of the agreed schedule of activities for the month of March 1996, the Government began quartering the rapid reaction police in Benguela, Lubango and Luena on 15, 22 and 29 March, respectively, bringing to a total of six the

number of such quartering sites. As of 29 March, 3,386 personnel had been quartered out of 3,504 declared to be present in these locations. The Government is being urged to initiate the quartering process in the four remaining sites and to start retraining the rapid reaction police personnel whose functions should be adapted to the changing environment in Angola. In the meantime, UNAVEM III has continued to remind UNITA of its obligation to provide without further delay the personnel it intends to designate for incorporation into the national police to serve as bodyguards for UNITA leaders.

19. Although it was scheduled to begin in March 1996, the programme for disarmament of the civilian population, which is also to be verified by the United Nations, has been delayed. The Government has indicated that it is willing to initiate this process soon. The need to start the civilian disarmament programme has become urgent, not only to enhance the prospects for peace but also because of the escalation of banditry in Luanda and elsewhere in Angola, which severely affects the activities of various international organizations and the expatriate community as a whole.

20. UNAVEM III has continued to monitor the human rights situation and to investigate persistent violations in this area. The Human Rights Unit of the Mission participated in a number of civic education programmes organized for quartered UNITA troops, as well as in the first consultative meeting for the national police in which provincial police commanders also took part. In the meantime, the Unit has been actively promoting dissemination of basic educational material on human rights, including complaint procedures and the establishment of local human rights committees.

## V. HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS

21. Humanitarian activities proceeded normally during the reporting period. At present, the World Food Programme (WFP) provides more than 60 per cent of relief items by road and has gained access to new overland routes. The first overland humanitarian convoy reached the eastern part of Huíla province, despite a mine accident along the way. In addition, WFP transported humanitarian items for the first time from Lobito to Lubango on roads recently cleared by MECHEM. The route from Sumbe through Kwanza Sul can now be used for humanitarian deliveries and to gain access to the quartering area at Andulo. However, mines, security and logistic constraints continue to impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance in many parts of the country.

22. In the province of Uíge, the Government and UNITA have set up consultative mechanisms to define priority areas for humanitarian assistance. While constraints on movement have not been entirely eliminated, these regular contacts are having a favourable impact on both humanitarian assistance activities and the climate of reconciliation in this province.

23. International non-governmental organizations are conducting assessments of the distribution of agricultural seeds and tools in 1995. Although the distribution itself was successful, there is concern that insufficient rainfall has reduced expected crop yields in parts of Benguela and Huambo provinces. More conclusive findings are expected in May 1996 following the planned joint

crop assessment mission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP.

24. Humanitarian organizations continue to identify and address pockets of malnutrition. One such operation was recently completed at Licua, Kuando Kubango province, with joint participation of the Government and UNITA. A recent assessment mission to the area reported an improved nutritional situation, as well as signs of recovery in the condition of livestock. Malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory infections and trypanosomiasis continue to be the most common diseases affecting Angolans. In some northern provinces, trypanosomiasis is reported to be the main cause of death and a shortage of the drug Arsobal is jeopardizing programmes to combat this disease.

25. The spontaneous return of internally displaced persons continues on a limited scale, particularly in the provinces of Benguela and Kwanza Sul. Some displaced families are also departing from villages near Jamba and efforts are under way to help them resettle in the central highlands. In areas bordering Zaire and Zambia, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in cooperation with partner non-governmental organizations, is preparing conditions for the reception of returning refugees. On 22 March, UNHCR issued an appeal for $30.8 million for its 1996 repatriation programme for some 300,000 Angolans.

26. After extended consultations with participating agencies, the United Nations 1996 updated appeal for Angola is being finalized and will be distributed to donors this month.

## VI. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

27. The imminent demobilization of disabled and underage soldiers has led the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit to formulate, in cooperation with other concerned bodies, a contingency plan to start referral services and quick-impact projects by the end of April 1996 in the six provinces that are expected to receive the majority of the demobilized soldiers. This plan has already been activated through preliminary visits to the concerned areas. The programme has received some funding from donors, in addition to that provided by UNDP, which is seeking further contributions to ensure that a minimal support system can be established in due time.

28. A World Bank mission visited Angola from 2 to 16 February 1996, with the objective of identifying projects that could address the social aspects during the transition period, with particular emphasis on the most urgent needs of internally displaced persons, refugees, demobilized soldiers, amputees and disabled, and children traumatized by the war. The proposed components of the project could also include an assistance programme for rebuilding the social and economic infrastructure in rural areas and for training and skills development, as well as an emergency fund for children affected by the war and other vulnerable groups.

29. Owing to the Government's failure to contain inflation and to implement major policy reforms, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has suspended the staff-monitored programme that it had negotiated with the Government in mid-1995. Successful implementation of that programme would have made possible the initiation of lending by the Fund during 1996, followed by an acceleration of World Bank lending operations, debt relief and other support from outside donors. While IMF remains in contact with the Government, negotiations on a new programme are not expected to begin before at least the middle of 1996. In the meantime, IMF continues to provide significant technical assistance to the National Bank of Angola and the Ministry of Finance.

30. The Ministry of Planning of Angola, with assistance from UNDP, has elaborated a programme support project to address the shortage of qualified staff at all levels of government administration. This project, which is awaiting final approval from UNDP, will assist central and provincial authorities to start implementation of the National Rehabilitation Programme.

## VII. OBSERVATIONS

31. It is hoped that, after yet more frustrating delays, the peace process in Angola will now move forward with the start of the second phase of quartering of UNITA troops and that of the rapid reaction police, as well as the beginning of FAA's withdrawal to barracks. I urge the Government and UNITA to take the concrete actions required in this regard. I also appeal to them to make further progress in the talks on military matters and to find expeditious solutions to all other outstanding issues. The incorporation of UNITA troops into the national army should also begin without delay. This is an area that provides both parties an opportunity to demonstrate their good will and to take practical steps towards genuine national reconciliation.

32. However, the progress achieved in the period covered by the present report is limited and has not fulfilled the hopes generated by the meeting between President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi on 1 March. Much remains to be done to fulfil the tasks that the two sides agreed to undertake in accordance with the recently adjusted timetable; implementation is once again behind schedule. Further delays and procrastination could still jeopardize the peace process. Complete and fully verifiable quartering by UNITA of its troops is the key element. The results so far are inadequate. I recognize the political, military and psychological difficulties associated with this aspect of the process. But if it is not executed in good faith, the implementation of other essential aspects will be undermined, including the withdrawal of FAA to the nearest barracks, the completion of the quartering of the rapid reaction police, the disarmament of the civilian population and the integration of UNITA elements into FAA.

33. The international community stands ready to continue to support the Angolan people in their quest for peace, not only by providing emergency assistance but also by facilitating economic reconstruction and development. At the same time, the patience of major donors is not without limits and their assistance will depend to a large extent on the continued commitment of the parties to peace and national reconciliation. I therefore once again call on the Government and

UNITA to implement in good faith, and within the agreed time-frame, the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol, as well as the crucial agreements reached at Libreville concerning the completion of the quartering process, the formation of the new armed forces and the establishment of a Government of national unity and reconciliation. If the peace process is to reach a successful conclusion, the next few months must be a period of dynamic and fundamental change in Angola. The achievement of this goal depends on the political will of the Angolan Government and UNITA.

Annex

UNAVEM III - Military and civilian police personnel

(as of 29 March 1996)

| Country | Military observers | Civilian police officers | Staff officers | Troops | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Algeria | 8 | -- | -- | -- | 8 |
| Bangladesh | 10 | 21 | 21 | 200 | 252 |
| Brazil | 20 | 9 | 38 | 1 041 | 1 108 |
| Bulgaria | 9 | 7 | -- | -- | 16 |
| Congo | 8 | -- | -- | -- | 8 |
| Egypt | 10 | 15 | 1 | -- | 26 |
| Fiji | -- | 2 | -- | -- | 2 |
| France | 8 | -- | 12 a/ | -- | 20 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 13 | 4 | -- | -- | 17 |
| Hungary | 10 | 7 | -- | -- | 17 |
| India | 19 | 3 | 49 | 1 013 | 1 084 |
| Italy | -- | -- | 4 a/ | -- | 4 |
| Jordan | 20 | 20 | 1 | -- | 41 |
| Kenya | 10 | -- | -- | -- | 10 |
| Malaysia | 20 | 20 | 2 | -- | 42 |
| Mali | 10 | 15 | -- | -- | 25 |
| Namibia | -- | -- | 9 | 200 | 209 |
| Netherlands | 15 | 8 | 8 a/ | -- | 31 |
| New Zealand | 5 | -- | 9 a/ | -- | 14 |
| Nigeria | 21 | 20 | -- | -- | 41 |
| Norway | 5 | -- | -- | -- | 5 |
| Pakistan | 5 | -- | 8 a/ | -- | 13 |
| Poland | 5 | -- | -- | -- | 5 |
| Portugal | 9 | 11 | 21 | 302 | 343 |
| Republic of Korea | -- | -- | 6 | 198 | 204 |

| Country | Military observers | Civilian police officers | Staff officers | Troops | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Romania | -- | -- | 26 | 859 | 885 |
| Russian Federation | 10 | -- | -- | 167 | 177 |
| Senegal | 10 | -- | -- | -- | 10 |
| Slovakia | 10 | -- | -- | -- | 10 |
| Sweden | 20 | 10 | -- | -- | 30 |
| Ukraine | 5 | -- | -- | 200 | 205 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | -- | -- | 3 | -- | 3 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | -- | 3 | -- | -- | 3 |
| Uruguay | 10 | 12 | 42 | 799 | 863 |
| Zambia | 10 | 15 | 12 | 414 | 451 |
| Zimbabwe | 23 | 22 | 45 | 799 | 889 |
| Total | 338 | 224 | 317 | 6 192 | 7 071 |

a/ Including military specialists in the UNAVEM III demining school.

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